ASCS Today

Tobacco report final

By TOM CONRAD

Year End Virginia Fire-Cured Tobacco Report — A stronger demand was shown for Virginia fire-cured tobacco during the 1980 marketing season, reports the Federal-State Market News Service. However a decrease in acreage and lower yields were major factors as both total volume and value were down from 1979. Quality was not as good this season and loan receipts were lighter.

Gross sales for the 1980 crop totaled 3,671,623 pounds returning a new record high general average of $126.69 per hundred. This was an increase of $19.59 from last year's average and was $9.54 over the previous record set for the 1976 crop. Last season, 5,549,748 pounds averaged $107.10 per hundred. Volume this year was down 33.8 percent while total value of $4,651,580 was a decrease of 21.7 percent from 1979. Highest single day average of $148.28 was recorded December 9, 1980, with the second week (Dec. 9-11, 1980) setting a record weekly return of $140.95 per hundred pounds.

All grade averages were higher than for the 1979 crop. Increases were mainly $24 to $32 in all groups except nondescript which was up $17 to $24 per hundred. Another indicaiton of the strong demand is that the average loan rate of 98.9 cents per pound increased only 8.5 cents from 1979. Top average was $227 paid for C1L 46 with N2 the lowest at $39 per hundred.

Composition of the 1980 crop was down significantly from the previous year. Only 13 percent of sales graded in the heavy leaf group while thin leaf increased to 52 percent. From a color standpoint, much less dark and medium brown was sold while mixed and green increased sharply. Also, more tobacco was classed as low or fair quality this year with less good and fine. Percentages were: fine quality 4; good 17; fair 38; and low quality 24 percent.

Dark Tobacco Sales Cooperative receipts totaled 259,395 pounds or 7.1 percent of gross sales. In 1979, 887,000 pounds or 16.0 percent was placed under loan.

Markets opened December 2, 1980 and recessed for the holidays after sales on December 18. Auctions resumed January 27, 1981 with final sales held February 5. Sales were held only 15 days — 6 less than last season.

GROSS SALES AND AVERAGES ON TYPE 21 MARKETS
1980 and 1979 CROPS

Market	1980 CROP (Preliminary) Pounds	Average	1979 CROP Pounds	Average
Blackstone	1,022,320	$119.99	2,611,264	$105.67
Farmville	1,180,324	124.09	1,802,151	108.54
Lynchburg	1,468,779	133.53	2,046,793	110.98
Total	3,671,623	$126.69	5,549,748	$107.10

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE — The following is a piece that I read earlier this week that I thought you might enjoy.

A FARMER'S PRAYER

As farmers and ranchers, dear God, give us the patience and wisdom to understand why a pound of steak at $1.80 is "high"; but a three-ounce cocktail at $1.50 is acceptable. And Lord, help me to understand why $3 for a ticket to a movie is "not bad", but $3.50 for a bushel of wheat that makes 50 loaves of bread is considered unreasonable. And a 50c coke at a ballgame is "OK", but a 20c glass of milk for breakfast is inflationary. Cotton is "too high" at 65c a pound, but a $20 shirt is viewed as a bargain. And corn is "too steep" at 3c worth in a box of flakes, but the flakes are sold for 50c a serving. And Lord, help me to understand why I have to give an easement to the gas company so they can cross my property with their gaslines, and before they get it installed the price of gas has doubled. And while you're at it, dear Lord, please help me understand the consumer who drives by my field and raises his eyebrows when he sees me driving a $30,000 tractor that he helped put together so he could make money and drive down that right-of-way they took from me and build a road on so he could go hunting and skiing. Thank you, God, for your past guidance. I hope you can help me make sense out of all this. And please, God send some rain.

Happiness is 4-H

4-H Strawberry plant orders are coming in each day. Orders will be accepted until the supply of plants is gone. Varieties offered are Sunrise, Surecrop and Delite. Plants will arrive in early March.

* * *

The County Public Speaking Contest will be Thursday evening, February 19, at 7 p.m. at Appomattox Elementary School. Make your plans to attend and hear some of the finest young speakers in Appomattox County.

* * *

A new Consumer Bowl program is being sponsored through 4-H in an effort to help young people be aware of the importance of consumer decisions. The Consumer Bowl will operate like a standard quiz bowl with questions asked and points awarded for correct answers. 4-Hers interested in the Consumer Bowl program are asked to contact the Extension Office so they can be invited to practice sessions.

* * *

The 4-H Electric Program offers great opportunities for any 4-H'ers interested in electricity and energy. Not only is there an excellent chance to learn about an important source of energy, but a large number of awards are also available through the 4-H Electric Program. Sponsorship for this 4-H area is provided by the Electric Power Suppliers of Virginia.

* * *

4-H'ers interested in the Hog Project may want to mark their calendars for Saturday, May 23, for the first annual 4-H Mini-Swine Camp to be held at the Farmville Fairgrounds. The purpose of the program will be to explain and show 4-H'ers the entire process needed to raise several market hogs as a 4-H project. The program plans are to assist each 4-H'er taking part with locating a desirable feeder pig to raise as a project animal. More details will be sent to 4-Hers at a later date.

* * *

A big thank you to Glen McClenny, Laura Walton, Allen Smith and Laurie Cowan who helped teach an Achievement Record Workshop to a 4-H group in Farmville last week.

Service set for Springfield

There will be a special service held at Springfield Baptist Church Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. conducted by Rev. Roy A. Wood and Morning Star Choir.

Proceeds will benefit the Junior Adult Choir. Everyone is invited.

Paul McClary completes patrol

Coast Guard Seaman Paul A. McClary, son of Ann C. and James E. McClary Jr. of Route 4, Box 35A, Appomattox, recently participated in a law enforcement patrol off the Florida coast.

He is a crewmember aboard the Coast Guard cutter Reliance, homeported in Yorktown, Va.

During the patrol, the Reliance seized two vessels, the freighter Lucas M. and the fishing boat Georgina II, which were carrying a combined total of more than 77 tons of marijuana. The cutter also performed several search and rescue operations.

The Reliance is a 210 foot-long, medium endurance cutter with a crew of 61. It is the Coast Guard's only reserve training cutter.

McClary joined the Coast Guard in April 1979. His wife, Doris, is the daughter of Thelma Hughes of Route 1, Box 86, Appomattox.

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BABY OF THE WEEK

JASON RANDALL GARRETT, 4 months old, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Morgan Garrett, of Farmville. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Grisham of Route 4, Appomattox.

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3 lb. Bag Red Stayman APPLES . . . 69¢
Large Bunch Fresh, tender BROCCOLI . . . 79¢
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COMBO... FRYER PARTS Two each: • Breasts • Thighs • Drum. • Sticks 69¢ lb.
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NAVAL (4 lb. BAG) Oranges 89¢
FROZEN FAVORITES
TOTINO'S "Party" (Asst. varieties) Pizzas ea. $1.19
BANQUET "Man Pleaser" Dinners Asst. Vars. $1.39
MRS. FILBERT'S (Quarters) Margarine PKG. 59¢
RICHFOOD Cut Broccoli 20-oz. Bag 89¢
MORTON "Family" GLAZED Donuts 14 oz. Box 99¢
KRAFT Sliced American Cheese (16 slices) 12 oz. PKG. $1.59

DEL MONTE SALE...
LITE Fruit Cocktail 1-lb. Can 69¢
LITE...YELLOW (halves) Peaches 1-lb. Cans 59¢
16 oz. can (slices) Peaches 59¢
LITE (halves) Pears 1-lb. Can 69¢
24 oz. Bot. tomato Catsup 79¢
French Style or cut Green Beans 2 1-lb. Cans 89¢
Cream Style or WHOLE KERNEL Corn 2 17oz. cans 89¢
Early Garden Sweet Peas 2 17oz. cans 89¢
GREEN Lima Beans 16 oz. Can 59¢
16 oz. can Whole Tomatoes 59¢
15 oz. cans LEAF Spinach 2 $1.
Pineapple-G-fruit or Pineapple-Orange Juice 46 oz. can 79¢

MRS. SMITH'S Cherry Pies 26 oz. PKG. $1.69
RICHFOOD (all varieties) Beans 3 15oz. Cans $1.
DR. PEPPER or PEPSI 2 Liter Bot. $1.39
RICHFOOD (all flavors) Toaster Pastries 11.5oz. Box 59¢
OVEN GOLD Bread 2 20-oz. Loaves 99¢
ECON Salad Dressing Qt. Cont. 89¢
HERSHEY'S "Squeeze" Chocolate Syrup 24 oz. Bot. $1.39
DISH LIQUID DAWN 22 oz. Bot. 99¢
DOLE (Sli., crush, or chunks) Pineapple 2 8oz. Cans 79¢
SWEET-16 Powdered Sugar Donuts PKG. 79¢
Musselman's Cherry Pie Filling Limit 2 21 oz. Can 99¢
FLOWER'S Rich-Grain Bread 24 oz. loaf 79¢

FEB